Mr. KNOX's

1507/II 26

EVIDENCE

In REGARD to the

DISPUTE

Between the two

PHYSICIANS

AT

CORKE.

Sit Malum illi, qui male Cogitat.

CORKE:

Printed by GEORGE HARRISON.

BRITISH MUSEUM 15 FEB 61

Youghall, March 12. 1749-50.

I Am very confident that my moſt unhappy Affair, in November laſt, is long e'er this well known in the County of Cork, if not all over this Kingdom; and I think ſince Doctor *F——r* has ſo undiſcreetly refreſhed our Memories with it, and intermedled with an Affair which did not concern him; I thought, in my own Juſtification, I could not paſs it by in Silence, therefore thought proper to write the two following Letters to him. I cannot avoid ſaying it was not uſing me well, to make my unhappy Attempt, and telling upon whoſe Account it happen'd, the Topick of a Bottle Diſcourſe; as I am aſſured he did, by a Friend of his own, who wrote to me in his Favour. But having thought better of it, and reflected more ſeriouſly, I cannot think, as he was a Man I never gave the leaſt Offence to, that he did it with a Meaning of doing me an Injury: But as the Method of my being treated in that unhappy Illneſs, has

very

very unfortunately for me, given rise to a Diſpute between two *Phyſicians*; the great Regard I have for Truth and Juſtice, obliges me to give the Publick all the Information in my Power, concerning that Affair which I could readily wiſh had been permitted to have remain'd in Oblivion.

Doctor Blair was the firſt called to my Aſſiſtance, on the Morning of the 9th of November laſt, and after being informed what I had raſhly and unpremeditately taken he ordered the Vomiting, which had begun before he came, ſhould be kept up, and encouraged; firſt by Draughts of ſweet Oyl, and afterwards Oyl mixed in Broth; this I accordingly did and Vomited plentifully. A good while after this, Doctor Weſtropp viſited me, and ordered me a Vomit, which I likewiſe took. and while it was a Working, Doctor Bonbonous came into the Room. I knew not then *under whoſe care I particularly was; but the ſame Afternoon I took Salts, both by the Mouth, and Glyſters in ſmall Quantities and I remember Part of them, were thrown away, being wrong mixed up by my Servant.* JOHN KNOX.

These are all the material Circumſtances I can remember with Regard to this unlucky Affair

Affair. It will make ſome Amends for the Pain I have ſuffered in recollecting them, if they can in any way contribute to clear up Truth, confound Falſhood, acquit the innocent, or condemn the guilty.

I ſhall now proceed with mentioning the Letters I wrote to Doctor *Farmar* on this occaſion, they might as well be omitted, but as I have gone ſo far I muſt beg leave to incert them, with his Anſwer to the firſt, as follows

Toughall March the 2d, 1749 50.

SIR,

I had the diſagreeable News of an unhappy Quarrel between you and your Brother Blair, repreſented much to your Diſhonour and diſadvantage; and I underſtand 'twas concerning the Method that was taken to recover Mr. K—— x in his Illneſs, ſome time ago at Corke; and that it was intirely on my Account. Sir, could it not ſuffice you, that his Patient is very well recover'd; and give me leave from my Experience and Knowledge of the World, to ſay, I am ſhock'd there is not more Humanity and good Manners among us, than to treat Strangers in ſo unchriſtian like a Manner in our own Country. In fine Sir, if I am concerned in this

this Fray, and if it be on my Account, I think I am in Honour, obliged to do Mr. Blair all the Juſtice in my Power, which, if my Evidence cannot do, or will not avail, I ſhall be obliged to take other Methods, that will not be ſo agreeable, either to you or myſelf; you have now brought yourſelf into a Scrape, and if I am concerned, ſee how you will get out of it; for I know not what Buſineſs my Name had in Queſtion; or for your ſtirring up old Embers. But on the other Hand, if it was on any old Affair between yourſelves, and that I was not the Occaſion, or concerned in it (as I would avoid Trouble if in Honour I could) pray think no more of it, and drop it, and when that is clear'd up, and made manifeſt, I ſhall then ſubſcribe your humble Servant. I wrote laſt Sunday to Mr. Blair, to be better informed, and I apprehend his Illneſs has prevented his writing to me, pray your Anſwer to this from

JOHN KNOX.
Enſign in Col. Kennedy's *Regiment.*

The *Anſwer.*

Corke, March the 6th, 1749-50.
Received yours and will venture to ſay, that had you been rightly informed of

the unhappy Affair, between Doctor Blair and me, you would have thought more favourably of me than by your letter I am to judge. I assure you what I said of Dr. Blair, I might have said of any other Physician living, & that to his Face without Offence. Your Name I believe was mentioned, but not with design to reflect in the least on your Character, nor was it possible it should. Mr. G—s has promised me to write to you by this Nights Post, so shall refer you to his Letter for further Information and Satisfaction, I am Sir, your humble Servant,

HOVELL FARMER.

This Affair having been represented to me, as well by others, as Mr. *Blair*, to the Dishonour of Mr. *Farmer*. I thought proper to write him (Mr. *Farmer*) the following Letter.

SIR, *Toughall, March 9th* 1749 5°

I Received yours, and had likewise a Letter from my Friend Doctor G—s wherein he mentions your unlucky Affair much in your Favour. How it will turn out, or what to think of it, I cannot conceive but as it is evident, Mr. Blair has been most inhumanly and unmercifully treated and that partly on my Account, I hope he will meet with all the Satisfaction the

Law can give him; yet your Friends Letter to me, ſtill condemns you in this Reſpect (and were it not for your preſent Grivances, I ſhould have taken more notice of it) which was your entertaining a Gentleman from Dublin, with my unhappy Affair, and on the Perſons Account (whoſe Character I am more zealous for than my own) it happened. You ſay it was done with no deſign, to affront me or my character, I am ſure it could not have been repeated with any good deſign, beſides as you were not concerned in the leaſt, you had no buſſineſs to mention my Name, neither was his Method of Proceeding to recover me (as I am recovered) the leaſt in your reach or Sphere. I have often heard of Phyſicians being reflected on for killing their Patients, and ſome times very juſtly; but never for ſuch as this. The World will condemn you in my Opinion, and am very ſorry to ſay ſo does your humble Servant,

JOHN KNOX.

This he did not think proper to anſwer and his Reaſon for it, I will not take upon me to aſſert, further than his Conſcience had accuſed him of his Actions.

There is one thing, I would adviſe my Readers againſt, *viz.* Partiality on either ſide, and to fly from the Character of a na-

tional man, but ſtick up only to the Rules of common Juſtice, Truth and Honour, and avoid all Spleen, Malice, Envy and uncharitable Thoughts of our fellow creatures; but as I am no Preacher I ſhall leave that to thoſe whoſe Buſineſs it is. I cannot conclude without requeſting the Reader to view me in the moſt favourable Light, and make all the Apologies for a thoughtleſs Action, committed from the Heat and Imprudence of Youth, the Violence of Paſſion and the common Frailty of Man; which their own good Nature and Humanity can ſuggeſt in my Favour. Though my Conduct may deſerve Blame, I cannot help thinking the Circumſtances of my Caſe, will in ſome Meaſure, excuſe me to the good natur'd part of the World. My Misfortunes, which, I flatter'd myſelf were almoſt forgot, are not only become a freſh topick of converſation, but induſtriouſly publiſh'd to the whole World, through the indiſcretion or inadvertancy of thoſe, whom, as I never offended, I cannot perſuade myſelf, could mean me any injury: but ſo ſingularly unlucky am I, that time, which ſhuts up the wounds of others, has ript open mine. I am, with reſpect to my Readers, their very humble Servant, JOHN KNOX